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(54) A METHOD FOR MAKING AND PRESERVING ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL FLOWERS AND LEAVES

(71) I, GORDON CLEMENTS, of 20 Devonshire Road, Blackpool, County of Lancaster, a Canadian Subject, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to improvements in methods for the making of artificial flowers, leaves or the like on wire loops and for the preservation of natural flowers, leaves and the like.

The object of the invention is to provide novel artificial flowers and leaves or the like or the preservation of natural flowers, leaves or the like.

According to one aspect of the invention a method for making artificial flowers, leaves or the like comprises forming a wire into a loop contoured to the outline of the flower, leaf or the like, dipping the loop into a dispersion of an acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose and a Ketone acting as a volatile dispersant to form a film on the loop and allowing the film on the loop to drip and dry.

According to another aspect of the invention a method of preserving natural flowers, leaves or the like comprises dipping the flower leaf or the like into a dispersion of an acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose and a Ketone acting as a volatile dispersant to form a film on the flower, leaf or the like for the preservation of the flower, leaf or the like and allowing the flower, leaf or the like to drip and dry.

The film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose material may be dispersed as an emulsion in a volatile Ketone dispersant and the kit sold may include a dispersant for use as a thinner when required for admixture with the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion. The kit sold also includes a concentrate of the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose for use as a thickener for admixture with the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion in the event that thicker films are required or the user adds too much thinner.

Mixtures of film forming polymers may be employed. For example, the softer acrylic resins may be mixed with nitro cellulose in all proportions. Plasticizers, such as dibutyl phthalate, tricresyl phosphate and chlorinated diphenyl may be employed and small amounts of dyestuff, such as a dyestuff which is soluble in the dispersant to provide alternative colours of film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion.

The film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose material should preferably have a high tensile strength, for example acrylic resins form films having tensile strengths of 5,000 to 7,500 pounds per square inch (p.s.i.): nitro cellulose films strengths of 6,000 to 9,000 p.s.i. and ethyl cellulose films strengths of 7,000 to 9,000 p.s.i.

Usually it is preferable for the film produced to be clear and translucent rather than opaque and methyl methacrylate may advantageously be employed as the film forming acrylic resin material. This, as other acrylic resins, is dispersed in Ketones such as methyl ethyl ketone.

In a specific example described by way of example, 40 parts of methyl methacrylate were admixed with 60 parts by weight of methyl ethyl ketone and 0.10 part of an aniline dye, which is soluble in the ketone.

The kit of parts sold includes, in addition to the differently coloured film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion and the wire, green plastics tape for binding the wires from the film covered loops representing petals and leaves into the "stem" of an artificial flower. "Stamens" of artificial flowers are provided, or may be made by the user by dipping wire, which may be formed with a small loop at one end or formed into a helix, or a pipe cleaner into the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion, withdrawing it and allowing it to dry.

In use the loops of wire are bent to assume

the desired configuration of leaf or petal of a flower before dipping in the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion of appropriate colour.

When used for preserving natural flowers, leaves and the like the item to be preserved is dipped into the film forming acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion which may be of a thinner consistency than when used to form artificial flowers, leaves and the like, and several coats may be applied, letting each one dry before applying the next. The film may be clear or coloured.

The film forms a support over the surface of the leaf or flower and prevents its wilting.

A more permanent effect is achieved if the plant is dried before being dipped in the acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose dispersion.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A method for the making of artificial flowers and leaves or the like comprising forming a wire into a loop contoured to the outline of the flower, leaf or the like, dipping the loop into a dispersion of an acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose and a Ketone acting as a volatile dispersant to form a film on the loop and allowing the film on the loop to drip and dry.

2. A method for the preservation of natural flowers, leaves and the like in which the flower leaf or the like is dipped into a dispersion of an acrylic resin, nitro cellulose or ethyl cellulose and a Ketone acting as a volatile dispersant to form a film on the flower, leaf or the like for preservation thereof, and allowing the flower, leaf or the like to drip and dry.

3. A method as in Claim 1 in which the dipping dispersion is composed of 40 parts by weight of methyl methacrylate, of 60 parts of methyl ethyl ketone and of 0.10 parts of an aniline dye soluble in the Ketone to colour the film.

4. A method as in Claim 1 or 2 in which nitro cellulose is added to the acrylic resin dispersion.

5. A method as in Claim 2 in which dibutyl phthalate, tricresyl phosphate and chlorinated diphenyl are added to the dispersion as plasticers.

6. A method for the production of artificial flowers, leaves or the like or the preservation of natural flowers, leaves or the like substantially as hereinbefore described.

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